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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 April 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Yugoslav Third Army and information concerning the protest of the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry to the Chargé d'affaires of the Albanian Embassy in Belgrade in connection with the recent incident on the Yugoslav-Albanian border (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 113 (b), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

TERRORISTS FROM ALBANIA ATTACK YUGOSLAV BORDER GUARDS

The Yugoslav Third Army said on Thursday that a group of armed men had attempted to cross from Albania into Yugoslavia earlier in the day, triggering an incident in which the group was broken up and their arms seized by the border guards.

"As the group attempted to cross the Yugoslav state border from the territory of the Republic of Albania, a border incident was provoked in which the Yugoslav Army guards sent the terrorist group running and seized a significant quantity of arms, munitions and other terrorist equipment which was being brought in on seven draught animals," the Third Army statement said.

The incident occurred at 2 a.m. on April 16, in the sector of the border in the Junicke Mountains, in the Djakovica municipality, when the terrorists, challenged by the border guards in crossing the border illegally, opened fire from automatic weapons.

The Yugoslav border guards returned fire and prevented the illegal entry, shattering the terrorist group, killing five of the animals and seizing more than 60 automatic rifles, 4 machine guns, 100 hand grenades, more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition for automatic weapons and a quantity of other terrorist equipment.

At the request of the Yugoslav side, a joint Yugoslav-Albanian Commission has visited the scene of this grave border incident perpetrated from the Albanian side of the border, and investigation into the incident is currently under way, the statement says.

YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS BORDER INCIDENT TO ALBANIA

Yugoslav Foreign Ministry lodged a strong protest on Thursday evening to the Chargé d'Affaires of the Albanian Embassy in Belgrade Florian Nova regarding an attempt to commit an act of serious violation of the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and an illegal crossing of the Yugoslav-Albanian border by a terrorist group carrying a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

The Chargé d'Affaires was told that such incidents could have serious consequences and that the Albanian side would solely be responsible for them.

Yugoslavia has frequently pointed to the need for taking appropriate steps by the Albanian authorities to prevent such grave incidents.